



## Ironsides Report

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### Robinson assumes command of Old Ironsides Division

by Spc. Christopher Stanis, 1AD PAO

BAGHDAD, Iraq – Brig. Gen. Fred D. Robinson assumed command of 1<sup>st</sup> Armored Division from Maj. Gen. Ricardo S. Sanchez Tuesday.

"Twelve years ago, at the end of Desert Storm, a young major and I stood on Highway 8 after we had cut off the retreat of the Iraqi Army," Sanchez said. "I never imagined then that we would be standing in Baghdad exchanging the colors of 'America's Tank Division.'"

Robinson is temporarily taking charge until incoming 1AD commander, Brig. Gen. Martin Dempsey, arrives from the Saudi Arabian National Guard Modernization Program in Saudi Arabia.

Though Sanchez is leaving 1AD, Lt. Gen. William Wallace, V Corps commander and reviewing officer for the ceremony, said it is no time for goodbyes.

Sanchez will remain in Iraq as commander of V Corps and Coalition Joint Task Force-7.

"I can think of no officer I'd rather have in both roles," Wallace said.

"I can think of no officer that is better qualified for both roles. I can think of no soldier I'd rather hand the flag to than Rick Sanchez."



Wallace wished Robinson success in commanding 1AD.

"You have a reputation as a leader and a trainer," Wallace said. "I'm confident that under your tenure these Iron Soldiers will only add to their reputation as the disciplined, professional soldiers they are."

Robinson said that, even if just temporarily, he is proud of the chance to command 1AD.

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**Robinson continued**

"I am truly blessed to have the opportunity to work with such great individuals," he continued. Even though I will be in charge for only a short time, I pledge we will accomplish every mission to standard."

His awards include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit with oak-leaf cluster, Bronze Star Medal; Defense Meritorious Service Medal; Meritorious Service Medal with oak-leaf cluster; Army Commendation Medal; and Parachutist Badge.

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**NEWS****GOP Rejects Formal Probe of Iraq Intel**

WASHINGTON (AP) - Majority Republicans in Congress brushed aside Democratic pleas for a formal investigation into the handling of intelligence on Iraq's weapons programs, saying Wednesday that routine oversight should suffice. Senate Intelligence Committee Chairman Pat Roberts said some of the Democratic criticism of the handling of the intelligence has "been simply politics and for political gain."

**Fed Says Economy May Be Near a Rebound**

WASHINGTON (AP) - The weak U.S. economy, which has suffered thousands of job losses in recent months, may be on the verge of a rebound now that the Iraq war is over, the Federal Reserve said Wednesday. The central bank said that four of its 12 districts - Dallas, Kansas City, New York and Minneapolis - detected signs of increased economic activity and no district reported further deterioration since the last report in late April.

**Bush Prods Congress on Medicare Drugs**

CHICAGO (AP) - President Bush put his weight behind growing momentum in Congress to pass a Medicare prescription drug plan Wednesday, and the top Senate Democrat said such a plan now seems likely to win approval. "I think it will pass," Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D., said in Washington as Bush challenged lawmakers to send him a bill by the Fourth of July.

**Army Probes Colonel's Marriage Proposals**

FORT BRAGG, N.C. (AP) - Army commanders said Wednesday they are investigating allegations that a colonel proposed to dozens of women in the United States and Canada after meeting them through Internet dating services.

**BUSINESS****Dow Ends Up 128, Nasdaq Gains 18**

NEW YORK (AP) - Wall Street extended its rally Wednesday as investors shook off a warning from Texas Instruments and sent stocks higher on optimism about the economy. The Dow Jones industrials climbed above the 9,100 mark for the first time in 11 months. "The market momentum here is quite strong," said Steven Goldman, chief market strategist, Weeden & Co. in Greenwich, Conn. "When we have a sustainable advance, market horizons tend to expand, with investors willing to look further into the future and shake off bad news."

**SPORTS****MLB Cuts Sosa's Suspension to Seven Games**

NEW YORK (AP) - Sammy Sosa's suspension for using a corked bat was reduced Wednesday to seven games by major league baseball, which accepted his explanation that he simply made a mistake. The appeal of the eight-game suspension by the Chicago Cubs' slugger was heard Tuesday in Baltimore. The suspension begins with the Cubs' game Wednesday night against the Orioles.

**Fuhr named to Hall**

TORONTO — Goaltender Grant Fuhr entered the Hockey Hall of Fame on Wednesday, culminating a career in which he won five Stanley Cups. Fuhr, the first black in the hockey hall, was joined Wednesday by forward Pat LaFontaine, Detroit Red Wings owner Mike Ilitch and junior coach Brian Kilrea.

**160,000-Year-Old Pre-Human Skulls Found**

Scientists in Ethiopia have unearthed what may be the oldest and best-preserved skulls of modern man's immediate predecessors, a finding that illustrates the dramatic transformation from the heavy-browed caveman look to more refined facial features. The nearly complete skulls of an adult male and a child and the partial skull of a second adult are believed to be around 160,000 years old.